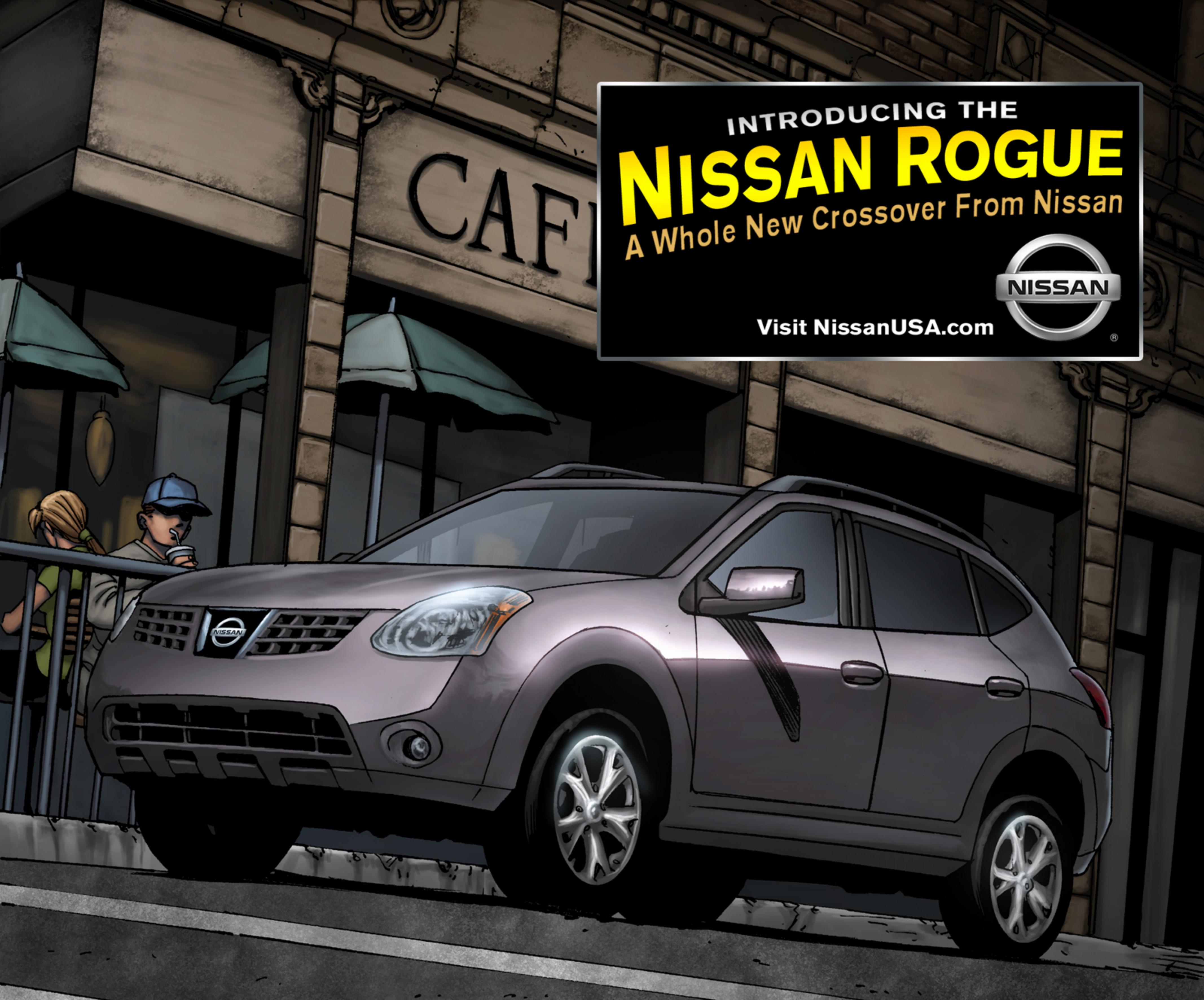


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HEROES



CHAPTER 81 DONNA'S BIG DATE

Part 1 of 2

Across the world, people have developed strange and fantastic abilities, making them gods among men. In response, a clandestine group has arisen, ever present in their lives, but hidden in the shadows: the Company. No one knows what purpose they serve or why they exist. But one fact remains true: the people whose lives they touch are never the same again...

BALTIMORE,
MARYLAND, 11:22 PM.

DONNA'S BIG DATE

CHUCK KIM PETER STEIGERWALD COMICRAFT
Writer Art and Colors Lettering
An ASPEN MLT INC. Production

MY NAME IS DONNA DUNLAP. I'M 23, A RECEPTIONIST IN A DENTAL OFFICE.

KNEE DEEP IN COLLEGE LOANS.

AND I JUST SHOT A MAN.

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DO ONLINE DATING.

8:22 PM.

I MET BLAKE IN A CHATROOM. HE ASKED ME OUT. I SAID YES. I KNOW, STUPID.

BUT, HE SENT ME HIS PIC... AND... COME ON, LOOK AT THE GUY. HE'S LIKE COLLIN FERRELL'S CUTER, YOUNGER BROTHER.

I MEAN, I DO OKAY, BUT GUYS LIKE THIS? NUH UH.

IT WAS HOUR TWO OF THE BEST DATE EVER. AND THEN...

...I ANSWERED THE PHONE.

...AND THE NIGHT ALL WENT TO HELL.

LISTEN CAREFULLY. THIS IS NOT A JOKE.

THE VOICE WAS DIGITALLY ALTERED. COULDN'T EVEN TELL IF IT WAS A MAN OR WOMAN. CALLED HIM OR HERSELF "EV." AS IN "EV DROPPER."

THIS IS A SET-UP. THE MAN ACROSS FROM YOU IS A KILLER. YOU'RE GOING TO TELL HIM YOU HAVE A FAMILY EMERGENCY. THEN, YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE.

10:15 P.M.

ABOUT ONE HOUR AFTER I LEFT BLAKE AT THE RESTAURANT, I BEGAN TO WONDER IF THIS WAS ALL SOME STUPID PRANK.

THE CALL WAS A BLOCKED ID. NO SURPRISE THERE.

MAYBE BLAKE HAD SOME EX-GIRLFRIEND WHO WAS TRYING TO SCARE ME OFF.

STILL, BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY, RIGHT? HE COULD'VE BEEN A SERIAL KILLER FOR ALL I KNOW.

MY MIND DRIFTED. THOUGHT ABOUT THE JOBS I SHOULD BE APPLYING FOR.

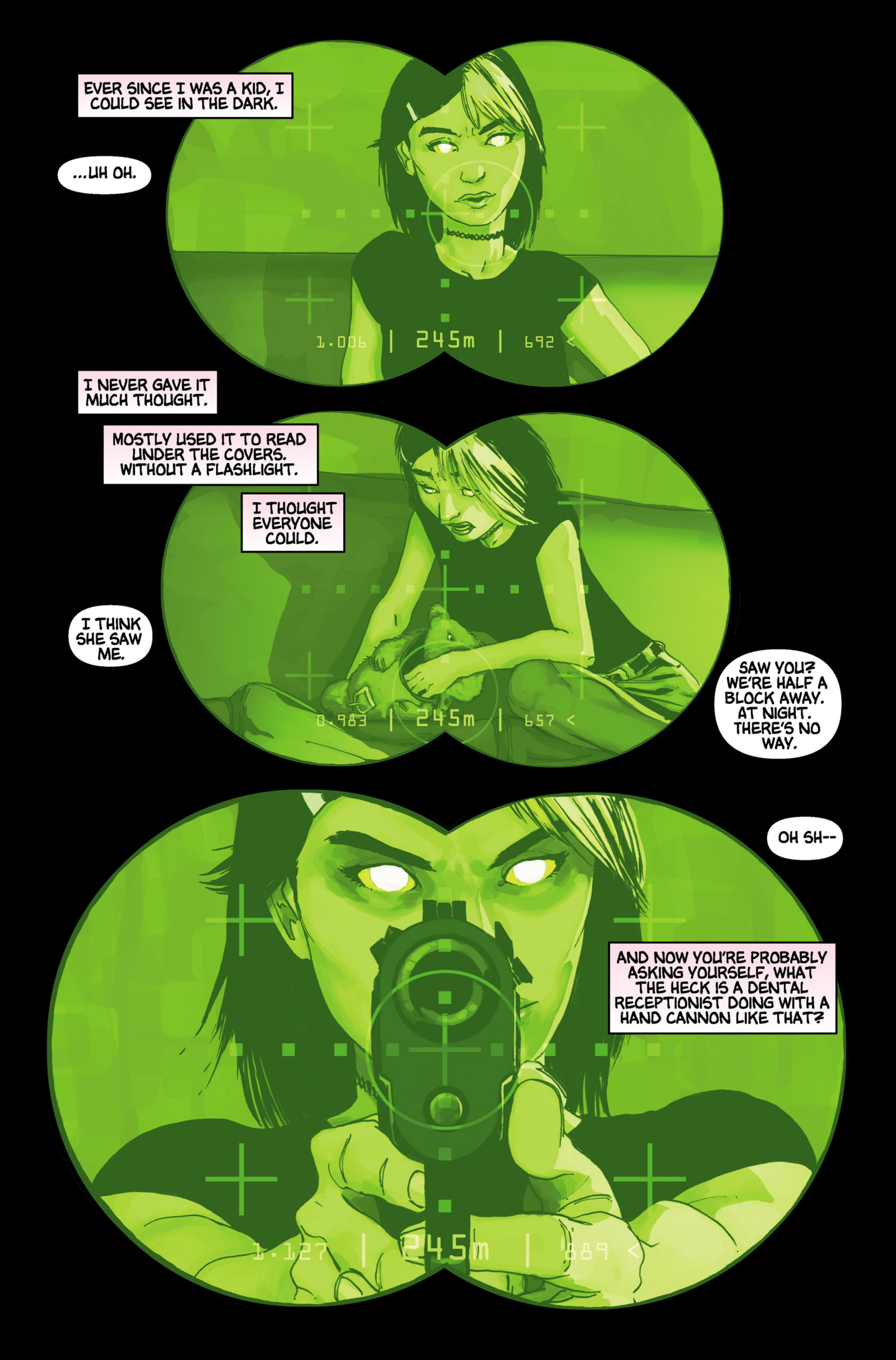
THE LAUNDRY I SHOULD HAVE FOLDED BUT DIDN'T.

BUT I COULDN'T SHAKE THAT WEIRD FEELING.

THAT'S WHEN I SAW HIM. BLAKE.

WATCHING ME.

WATCHING ME THROUGH NIGHT VISION BINOCULARS. FROM HALF A BLOCK AWAY.



EVER SINCE I WAS A KID, I COULD SEE IN THE DARK.

...UH OH.

I NEVER GAVE IT MUCH THOUGHT.

MOSTLY USED IT TO READ UNDER THE COVERS. WITHOUT A FLASHLIGHT.

I THOUGHT EVERYONE COULD.

I THINK SHE SAW ME.

SAW YOU?
WE'RE HALF A BLOCK AWAY.
AT NIGHT.
THERE'S NO WAY.

OH SH--

AND NOW YOU'RE PROBABLY ASKING YOURSELF, WHAT THE HECK IS A DENTAL RECEPTIONIST DOING WITH A HAND CANNON LIKE THAT?

1.127 | 245m | 889 <

8:23 P.M.

LOOK
UNDER THE
TABLE.

I'VE TAPE
D A GUN UN
DER YOUR TABLE.
TAKE IT.

YEAH, I KNOW.
CRAZYTOWN, RIGHT?

BUT I TOOK THE
GUN ANYWAY.

BETTER SAFE
THAN SORRY.

10:16 P.M.

AAAHH!

IN HIGH SCHOOL, MY
SIGHT BECAME EVEN
BETTER. I COULD FOCUS
MY VISION. SEE THE
INDIVIDUAL DETAILS ON
A SNOWFLAKE.

OR READ AT A DISTANCE.
LIKE TEST ANSWERS OFF
THE TEACHER'S DESK. EVEN
FROM THE BACK ROW.

NOW I'D NEVER FIRED
A GUN BEFORE...

...BUT APPARENTLY,
TELESCOPIC VISION?
VERY HELPFUL.

